

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, ET, CU
SUBJ: ETHIO-CUBAN WORKING LEVEL RELATIONS

REF: HAVANA 1495 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF ETHIOPIAN CONTROL OFFICERS OF VISITING 21-MAN CUBAN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION, EMBOFF WAS TOLD CUBANS HAVE EXPRESSED ALMOST UNIVORMLY, STERN COMMITMENT TO "INTERNATIONALIST STRUGGLE." CASUAL REFERENCES BY ETHIOPIAN HOST, HIMSELF A MARXIST-LENINIST, ABOUT SOVIET HEAVY-HANDEDNESS TOWARD ITS CLIENTS, CAUSED FIRM REBUKE BY CUBAN DELEGATE WHO PRAISED SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN PRESERVING CUBAN REVOLUTION. ETHIOPIAN WAS TAKEN ABACK BY DEPTH OF GRATITUDE CUBANS FELT TOWARD SOVIET UNION, SOMETHING WHICH HE STATED WAS NOT EQUALLY FELT BY ETHIOPIANS TOWARD USSR.

2. SOURCE CHARACTERIZED 5-MAN GROUP FROM OVERALL DELEGATION FOR WHICH HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, AS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL AND COMPETENT EXPERTS WHO ARE CONFINING THEIR VISIT TO TECHNICAL SUBJECTS AND EVALUATIONS. COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN THROUGH CUBAN INTERPRETER WHO
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SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. SOURCE SUSPECTED THAT NUMBER OF CUBAN EXPERTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE 35-45 YRS OLD, RECEIVED THEIR TRAINING IN US. RESULTS OF VISIT, WHICH IS CONTINUING AT PRESENT, HAVE NOT BEEN REACHED YET.

3. IMPRESSION GIVEN BY SOURCE, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN

TRUE GENERALLY WITHIN MILITARY, IS THAT ETHIOPIAN-
CUBAN RELATIONS AT WORKING LEVEL ARE CORDIAL AND
FRIENDLY. RECENT NEGEDE GOBEZIE AFFAIR DOES NOT
APPEAR TO HAVE AFFECTED THESE RELATIONS.
MATHERON

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